തുകക്കു വാദിക്കാതെ വിധിയുണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ളതാണെങ്കിൽ ആ വിധി ഇവിടെ സ്ഥിരപ്പെടുത്താതെ നടത്താം. ന്യായമായ അവസരം കൂടാതെ ആരുടെ പേരിൽ വിധിയുണ്ടായാലും ആ ആൾക്കു നിയമപ്രകാരം നിവൃത്തികളുണ്ട്".

Motion put and carried

Secretary to the Council : The title of the Bill is "The Cochin Maintenance Orders Enforcement Bill".

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General)* : I request that the Chair may be pleased to suspend S. O. 32 and move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

Mr. President : Granted.

Clauses 2 to 12 put and carried
Clause 1 put and carried
Preamble put and carried

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General)* : I move that the Bill be finally taken up and passed tomorrow.

Motion put and carried

RESOLUTION No. 1

Appointment of a Committee to enquire into the present condition of the Co-operative Societies of the State

"This Council recommends to the Government that a Committee may be appointed to examine the working of the Co-operative Societies of the State and to submit a report with its findings and suggestions for the improvement of the Co-operative movement in the State".

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)* :The object of my resolution was for the appointment of a committee to enquire into the present condition of the Co-operative Societies of the State. I have been anticipated by the Government. The Hon'ble Minister is contemplating the appointment of a committee. The proposed personnel of the committee has been read before the Council. Therefore, it seems to be unnecessary to move the resolution now. At the same time, I may be allowed with the Chair's permission to state that the expenses could be reduced much further and that no full-time Secretary is necessary for such committee, and I may, with due respect to the Hon'ble Minister, say that there is already a feeling that the Hon'ble Minister is creating too many unnecessary posts.

Mr. President : You said that you do not propose to move the resolution and yet you want to speak. Are you going to move it or not ?

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)* : I do not move it. But I only said that I may be allowed with the permission of the Chair, to say a few words. As an analogy I may mention the committee appointed to enquire into the Panchayat courts. There was no full-time Secretary at all.

RESOLUTION No. 2

Allowing the Honorary visitors to visit the Hospital without notice

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam)* : I rise to move *"This Council recommends to the Government that instead of the present practice of honorary visitors to hospitals and dispensaries visiting the same on a day and in an hour, fixed by the doctors in charge, the honorary visitors be empowered to visit the institutions jointly or severally once in a month and record their remarks on the working of these institutions".*

Sir, my resolution is self-explanatory. The present practice in the matter of honorary visitors visiting these institutions is this. The doctor in charge fixes up an auspicious day and hour. He issues notice to the Board of Honorary Visitors. (If the Government is going to accept the resolution, it is not necessary for me to move it at all.) The doctors in charge give due notice to the Board of Honorary Visitors to visit the hospital on a particular day and hour. On that day the hospitals are kept neat. I do not imply that on other days the hospitals are run improperly. But the possibility is there. On the notified date, the hospitals are kept clean, and the nurses smartly dressed. Naturally, the honorary visitors record their findings in a way quite agreeable to the Doctor. So far as the doctors are concerned, that is a satisfactory system, Sir, if my information is correct, in British India the honorary visitors jointly and severally at their sweet will and pleasure visit these institutions. They visit the patients one by one, ask

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

them about their difficulties, about any inconvenience they are put to and record their findings and suggestions. I think that is a better system, that is a more satisfactory way of carrying things.

At any rate this is what takes place in the Chittur Hospital. I am an Honorary Visitor there. There the doctor fixes up a day and hour. We visit the institution. We go round and record our findings. Well, I do not like to indulge in a long speech. I commend this resolution for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: Are these Honorary Visitors not allowed to visit as they like?

Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer)*: Provided it does not come into clash with the working of the hospital.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam)*: After giving notice to the doctor in-charge that you are coming on such and such a day.

Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer)*: Not necessary. You can go there at any time.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur)*: Does the Government permit surprise visits without notice?

Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer)*: Anybody may visit the hospital without the permission. But he cannot go round the hospital because there may be operations going on when such visits will not be convenient.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam)*: So the Honorary Visitors have also to get the permission to visit. I think this system will not serve any useful purpose. I commend this resolution for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur)*: Does the Government oppose this resolution seriously?

Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer)*: The position is this. As a matter of fact in accordance with the wishes of the Hon'ble Members of this House, it was decided that the Board of Honorary Visitors should visit the hospitals occasionally; their function is only advisory and not as a sort of inspection. They come there, see the hospital and advise any improvements if necessary, but not the sort of inspection of hospitals as envisaged by the Hon'ble Member. In British India as a matter of fact this system is dying out because it is found unsatisfactory, mainly because only a few of the Honorary Visitors care to visit.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam)*: So you say that we have to get the permission of the doctor in-charge?

Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer)*: Suppose you want to enter into the operation theatre and the labour ward. You won't be admitted. The officer in charge is sufficiently reasonable, so that when you ask him to allow you to go in, he will allow you. There is absolutely no difficulty at all.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam)*: So am I to take it that we should get the permission of the doctor beforehand. You should not be under the impression that we are going to poke our nose in the operation theatre.

Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer)*: I may tell you that the function of the board is purely advisory, and as for recording, if any member goes and wants to suggest something, he can report the fact at the time the Board meets. He can say "these are the findings when I visited". It would not be convenient if one member were to come today, another tomorrow and the third day after tomorrow. But I may assure the Hon'ble member that Government will have no objection if they visit the hospital with the permission of the doctor in-charge.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur)*: Sir, I support the motion. I was surprised to find Government opposing.

Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer)*: Government did not oppose.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur)*: Then, what are you doing? If the Government is not going to oppose, I have nothing to say. There must be some definiteness. Is the Government opposing it?

Mr. President: The Chief Medical Officer says that before a visitor actually goes to the wards and looks at the patients, he first informs the head of the institution and requests him to permit him to go round the wards. Hospitals have to be conducted in a disciplined manner and there must be some amount of order in these hospitals. The doctor who is in-charge of the hospital must have control. So, if any person wishes to visit the hospital he should first inform the medical officer in-charge. Otherwise it would not be possible to run the hospitals in an orderly manner. We are accepting the resolution subject to the ordinary rules of hospital discipline. I do not know whether in view of the explanation given the Hon'ble member still wants to press the resolution.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* I have no objection in not pressing this resolution, if the Government accepts the principle that the honorary visitors are allowed to visit these hospitals according to their convenience, of course, after giving due intimation to the doctor as a matter of courtesy. But the present system is *prima facie* absurd.

Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer):* The present practice does not object anybody going into the hospital.

Resolution, by leave, withdrawn

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkalam):* I have sent in a request that resolution No. 3 in the agenda may be allowed to be moved in the place of my resolution No. 15, so that it may be taken up after resolution No. 8. I intend withdrawing resolution No. 15.

RESOLUTION No 3

Establishing local committees for issuing permits for the sale of rice, sugar, jaggery, pulses, millets, tapioca, etc.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* I rise to move that "*this Council recommends to the Government that in the matter of control of food stuffs—rice, sugar, jaggery, pulses, millets, tapioca, etc., local committees composed of not more than three members be established in Mattancheri, Ernakulam and Trichur for the issue of the permits for the sale of articles above said for the use of inhabitants of the localities and dealers and stockists be directed to issue the articles on such permits at control prices.*"

Sir, it should be well known by this time the great difficulties that people have to get food stuffs of various kinds that they require, particularly essential commodities like rice, sugar, kerosene oil, etc. Now, you have established control, control regarding the import, control regarding the export, control regarding the quantity that could be possessed, control regarding the price at which commodities can be secured and so on. All restrictions always operate for enhancing prices. Whenever there is a difficulty placed in getting any article, then immediately prices rise for that particular kind of article. So, the result of control, whatever be the object with which the control has been established, is to push up prices and the object of the control is to keep down prices and to enable people to get these commodities at certain fixed prices which are called "control prices". Now, Sir, it is well known to those who have had the difficulties of getting things, that it is not always that people can get things at control prices. Yesterday, I was at Quilon, where the price of rice was fixed at Rs. 16—14—0 by the Travancore Government, but a bag of rice was purchased at Rs. 38. Now, that shows you that in spite of the vigorous measures that Government have taken and that Government is prosecuting very big people there, nevertheless prices go up. Here also, where the shop is entirely within the control of Government, you can get it at control prices. The same bag of rice elsewhere you can only get at non-control prices which are always higher. If you establish control, people should get things at that price; otherwise the very control is useless. What is your control? You have now got fair price shops. That is alright. It will work because it is under Government supervision, and it is a great relief to the poor people in places where these shops are established. That I grant. But in the ordinary market, people get immense difficulties, and who can know these difficulties more than the local people? Therefore, I suggest that local people including the officers of Government—a committee of 2 or 3—may be established in these particular towns, because they are all thickly populated places and it is not possible always to get at the officer himself. The officer may have other duties. He may have a wider circle to visit. To avoid these difficulties and to make it easy for the people to get things, you may have 2 or 3 men appointed for the purpose of getting articles to be purchased from the stockists or dealers at the particular control prices fixed up by the Government and it will be advantageous during these days. Without some system by which an authority can give a permit and say "go and buy from such-and-such a place such-and-such an article at the control price", there is no use of control. For instance it was said that a lawyer went 3 or 4 times to a shop to get one maund of sugar. He was asked to go and take it from a particular shop at a particular price. He could not get it. On the 6th visit he got 3 pounds. What is the use of that permit? Therefore, if there are local people in the immediate vicinity to take in any complaint and also to investigate and also to direct the giving of all permits for getting things, it would be useful.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Why not, the lawyer complain to the Police?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly